

For Immediate Release

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Contacts: Dan Williamson, Mayor's Office, 645-5300
Rick Tilton, Public Service, 645-7263
Sherri Palmer, Keep Columbus Beautiful, 645-3171

**Mayor, City Council, City Employees, Columbus Crew and Community
Organizations Among 280 Volunteers Who Cleaned Litter
During Mayor's Annual Spring Cleanup Today**

Mayor Michael B. Coleman, City Council, city employees and representatives of the Columbus Crew and community organizations cleaned litter in the South Linden area today during the Mayor's Annual Spring Litter Cleanup. A total of 280 volunteers removed thousands of pounds of litter from the area; the total pounds of litter collected will be available in the coming week.

"I am so proud of the city employees and hundreds of other volunteers who worked together today to send a clear message that streets in South Linden and all Columbus neighborhoods are not public trash cans," said Mayor Coleman. "Columbus is stronger when everyone shows they care by keeping our neighborhoods beautiful."

From 2003 to 2010, the Mayor's annual clean-up event attracted 1,612 volunteers who collected 41.6 tons, of litter and debris in neighborhoods across Columbus. Statistics from the first two years of the event, started in 2001, are not available.

"Litter removal programs help residents build pride in their neighborhood," said Councilmember Eileen Y. Paley, chair of the Public Service & Transportation Committee. "A clean neighborhood is a safe neighborhood."

The Greater Linden Development Corporation (GLDC) and the Columbus Crew soccer team are among the event sponsors who joined Mayor Coleman to clean litter from the South Linden area today. The GLDC is a non-profit organization that works to improve the quality of life in the Linden community through housing and economic development, planning and other community-building activities. The ongoing collaborative work of GLDC, the Crew and the Greater Linden Litter League, a coalition of community groups that conduct regular neighborhood cleanups, was the main reason South Linden was selected to host this year's Mayor's cleanup.

"We are very excited to have Mayor Coleman pick South Linden for his 2011 community cleanup," said Janee Perkins, Greater Linden Litter League Coordinator. "Linden residents are committed to keeping their neighborhood clean by volunteering for the Linden Litter League and participating in general community cleanups like today's Mayor's annual cleanup," she said.

“We take great pride in our long-standing partnership with Keep Columbus Beautiful and are proud to join Mayor Coleman and all of the other volunteers in the Spring Neighborhood Cleanup,” said Crew President & General Manager Mark McCullers. “Community service, particularly environmental and beautification projects in Columbus, has always been extremely important to us. We are committed to being a community leader working to enhance the quality of life in Columbus and this project exemplifies that effort.”

In addition to the Columbus Crew and the Greater Linden Development Corporation, 2011 Mayor’s Annual Spring Litter Cleanup participating businesses include The Kroger Company and Tim Hortons who supplied refreshments to the volunteers.

The boundaries of the cleanup event are:

- North: Hudson Street and Duxberry Avenue
- South: East 11th Avenue
- East: Billiter Boulevard
- West: I-71

The Mayor’s annual litter cleanup kicks-off each year’s schedule of litter cleanup events and is organized by Keep Columbus Beautiful, a program within the city’s Department of Public Service.